



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending October 5, 2018**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Oct. 8:
  - Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd.
- Tuesday, Oct. 9:
  - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, Oct. 10:
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, Oct. 11:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., Room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Oct. 12:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Preparing to pick up leaves** – Public Works crews are gearing up for the annual leaf collection program that begins the week of Oct. 16. The mild weather so far this season could mean a slow start for the program that runs through Nov. 30. Each quadrant of the Village will have seven opportunities to have their leaves picked up and mulched. Typically, crews make a final sweep of the entire Village after the program ends officially to clean up any remaining debris. We continue to urge residents to consider alternatives to raking such as mulching and composting. More information on the leaf collection program, including a map with specific collection dates by location, was published in the September/October OPFYI newsletter, which also is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Fire Department open house** – The Fire Department is preparing for its annual open house scheduled for Sat., Oct. 13. The doors to the Central Fire Station at 100 N. Euclid Ave. will be opened to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with Fire Safety Month. Visitors will be able to get up close to the equipment and talk to the firefighter/paramedics who help keep the community safe. In addition to the opportunity to touch all of the equipment essential to the mission of a modern fire department, the event also will include tours of the fire house, presentations about safety, refreshments and fun handouts.

**Mutual aid provided** – Two Public Works Department employees answered the call for help after severe weather caused widespread damage in the northwest suburbs last week. Ron Schwab of the Forestry Division and Steve Chervinko of the Streets Division were part of the [Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network \(IPWMAN\)](#) response that helped clear storm damage in communities across the far western and northern

suburbs. Ron and Steve spent three days this week in [Lake in the Hills](#), one of the communities hardest hit by the severe weather. IPWMAN is a mutual aid system for public works agencies across Illinois that help each other with personnel and resources for both natural and man-made disasters when local resources alone are not insufficient to meet an emergency need.

**At-Your-Door program update** – Promotion of the [At Your Door](#) electronic recycling and household hazardous waste material disposal program at last month's paper shredding event generated a marked increase in demand for the service. Waste Management, which manages the collection and disposal service, reported that 215 appointments were made for October shortly after the event, the biggest single month since the program was introduced in January 2017. Participants in the municipal refuse collection program can schedule at-home pickup of materials such as garden chemicals, automotive fluids, paint products and household cleaners as well as electronic items like televisions, computers, fax machines, printers and cell phones.

**Plan Commission activity** – The Plan Commission this week concluded review of the [planned development application](#) for a mixed-use, affordable housing venture proposed for 801 S. Oak Park Ave. After three public hearings with multiple public comments in-person and via email, the Plan Commission voted unanimously to support the application and approved the findings of fact report that will go to the Village Board for review and decision.

**Bugs cause stir** – The posting to social media of an [OP/FYI story on the brown marmorated stink bug](#) created quite a bit of citizen chatter this week. The story was written after the Public Works Department reported calls from residents concerned that the insect would damage our trees. While the small shield-shaped bug has no interest in trees, in the fall they seek a place to winter and often get inside buildings, a tendency many Oak Parkers clearly have experienced. Luckily, they don't bite, sting or carry disease, but they will stink if you crush them. Residents have been urged to caulk cracks and crevices where they might get in and if they do, remove them by hand.

**Traffic studies begin** – Studies of traffic flow are beginning on multiple residential streets across the Village. The studies will be conducted over several weeks, unobtrusively measuring traffic without affecting flow. The data will be used to help analyze future traffic issues that may come before the Transportation Commission for review and recommendations for remedial options.

**Redevelopment project news** – Crews began pouring concrete this week for new curb on South Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue along the frontage of the [Eleven 33 development](#). The concrete mixture is formulated to resemble granite, which will help tie the new South Boulevard streetscape to the look of the Pleasant District section of Marion Street to the east. Reconstruction of the alley east of the development site is expected to begin soon, and Village staff is working with the contractor to ensure that adjacent residents and businesses are aware of the work and its likely impacts. Meanwhile, restoration continued this week along the frontage of 202 – 210 Harrison Street for the [Flexhouse redevelopment project](#).

**Boulevards project update** – New asphalt was installed this week on South Boulevard between Home Avenue and Marion Street, and new concrete pavement was placed beneath the Clinton Avenue viaduct between North and South boulevards. Restoration and street light installation are proceeding along both boulevards and under the Kenilworth Avenue viaduct. The intersection of South Boulevard and Clinton Avenue was expected to remain closed to traffic through this week for site restoration. South Boulevard traffic continues to be rerouted at Kenilworth Avenue to Randolph Street between Kenilworth and Home avenues. North Boulevard remains closed during work hours at Forest Avenue, but access to private driveways has been retained. Periodic notifications and project schedule changes are posted online at [www.oak-park.us/boulevards](http://www.oak-park.us/boulevards).

**Street resurfacing and repairs** – Paving is expected to continue for up to three more weeks on the 10 blocks of streets and four parking lots being rehabilitated during the season's final round of paving projects. Striping and punch list items still remain on several sections of streets included in the first round of resurfacing projects. Microsurfacing on various Village streets is essentially completed, with only pavement markings remaining, which should be completed next week.

**Public Works Activities** –Streets Division crews restored four sections of roadway and 12 parkways that had been disrupted by water line repairs. Street Lighting Division crews relocated two underground electrical cable conduits at Lombard Avenue and Harrison Street to reroute power for street lights and the Arts District entryway sign. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired water service leaks at 700 S. Harvey Ave., 730 S. Cuyler Ave. and at 1176 Gunderson Ave. Crews also began preparations to replace a water valve at Harlem Avenue and Erie Street and install a new water valve at Ontario and Marion streets. Forestry Division crews planted 105 new trees south of I-290 this week, a projected funded by last year's Brookfield/North Riverside Lake Michigan water main installation across the Village. Another 205 trees are set to be planted in early November as part of the regular, fall round of parkway plantings.

**Staff recruitment** – A team from the Police and Human Resources departments took the Village's recruitment efforts to the annual *Fall Diversity Career Fair* held last week in the Pavilion at the University of Illinois Chicago. This career fair, held for the 41<sup>st</sup> time this year, hosts employers offering full-time, part-time, and internships in a wide range of fields including government. The Oak Park message was about the upcoming test for entry-level Police officers.

###